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absolute capital" (page 117). We expect every moment to come upon Bishop Berkeley's metaphysical paradox, "there is no such thing as matter"; and if we should find it here, we should not be at all surprised. Yet Mr. Macleod is not unfamiliar with pure economics, as his chapter on value sufficiently proves. The definition of value is as yet the *impasse* of political economy. The evidence of this is that there is not to-day any well-established doctrine of value. Mill began his treatment of it by saying that "there is nothing in the laws of value which remains for the present or any future writer to clear up; the theory of the subject is complete." At the bottom of his own treatment of it, as also of Ricardo's and, with some limitations, of Cairnes's, lies cost of production as the regulator of value. Macleod was among the first to discard cost of production altogether. Demand, he says, regulates value. He has not worked out the theory of value to any satisfactory conclusion. He has tried to dovetail it with his theory of credit, and in so doing has introduced as much confusion as he had previously got rid of. But that he is right in his main contention, that value depends on supply and demand and not on cost of production, is, I think, the growing belief of economists to-day.¹ What he has written here makes amends for some of his vagaries and gives him a claim to respectful attention. Both here and elsewhere, however, the book is more suggestive than scientific.

HORACE WHITE.

War with Crime; being a selection of reprinted papers on Crime, Reformatories, *etc.*, by the late T. BARWICK LL. BAKER, Esq. Edited by HERBERT PHILIPS and EDMUND VERNEY. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1889. — 8vo, xxix, 299 pp.

The Criminal. By HAVELOCK ELLIS. Illustrated. New York, Scribner and Welford, 1890. — 8vo, viii, 337 pp.

The *rationale* of sentences for crime is a subject meriting the most careful study; yet so far as the average citizen or the average college graduate or the average lawyer knows, it has never been scientifically treated at all. The two works under consideration are useful, — absolutely, because of what they contain, and relatively, because of the great dearth of literature bearing upon the subject of which they treat.

Mr. Baker was an English country squire of the best sort. By the German Professor von Holtzendorf, who was interested in these men, he was described as typical of the class to which he belonged. Baker was primarily interested in juvenile reformatories, and he wrote for various

¹ See on this point Boehm-Bawerk, *Capital and Interest* (translation), pp. 133-141.

periodicals and associations a great number of articles and addresses on this and on other phases of reformatory and deterrent work. The volume before us is a collection of these scattered papers. Many of the papers included by the editor resemble one another too closely to be thus reprinted side by side. "Varied iteration" is a helpful device in popularizing ideas, and Mr. Baker was justified in treating the same subject in much the same way for two different papers or on two occasions widely separated; but the editors were not justified in including both letters or both addresses in this posthumous collection of his writings.

To the ordinary citizen, Mr. Baker's work will give a very stimulating idea of what one public-spirited citizen can accomplish. The book is free from the cant, but instinct with the spirit of philanthropy. In the reformatory under his charge, Mr. Baker interpreted "good conduct" on the part of the inmates to mean hard work; he considered the deterrent element in punishment to be of much more importance than the reformatory element, and the institutions managed on the principles he advocated were sometimes so successful as to render their continued existence unnecessary. The supply of juvenile criminals was cut off at its source.

Mr. Baker believed that the sentence for all ordinary first offences should be short and light, but that sentences for subsequent offences should be indeterminate, leaving the final discharge of the prisoner to be fixed by the prison managers instead of by the judge. The basis of all his views is to be found in the idea that sentences should be apportioned according to the character of the criminal, and not according to the crime. He saw clearly, however, that our present courts are not fitted either by training or practice to impose sentences according to the new and more rational criterion.

The leading thought in Mr. Ellis's book is also that we must study criminals rather than crimes, if we would deal effectively with the "criminal classes." When a "defence" of kleptomania was set up in a case of theft, an English judge is said to have observed: "Yes, that is what I am sent here to cure." "We need not hesitate," says Mr. Ellis, "to accept this conception of the functions of the court, provided always that the treatment is scientific, effectual and humane." He is inclined to agree with those who think that instead of "punishment" we should speak of "social reaction against crime."

While the author states that the book contains nothing original, yet it assuredly contains a great deal that is new, at any rate to such readers as are acquainted with only the English works dealing with the subject of which it treats. It is a *résumé* of the results thus far reached by the students of criminal anthropology of Italy, France, Germany, England

and the United States, together with a view of the literature of the subject, and an interesting chapter on the treatment of the criminal. The commoner abnormalities of the criminal, physical and psychical, are noted; and the theory of atavism as an explanation of his anti-social tendencies receives constant notice, though it is not found to be as all-explanatory as Bellamy thinks it will be in his millennium.

Both of the authors under review urge as the strongest proof of the impotence of our present system of dealing with criminals, the increasing number of recidivists or habitual offenders. "Each ten-times-convicted offender is a standing, glaring proof of the inefficiency of our present system to prevent offences," says Mr. Baker. Ellis states that more than forty per cent of the women committed to prison in Great Britain during 1888 had previously been convicted more than ten times. Of the persons committed during the year 1887, 5686 of the men and 9764 of the women had been committed more than ten times. That the same tendency to recidivism exists in this country can be ascertained by investigating the records of the nearest county jail. It is Mr. Ellis's opinion that, since the time of Howard, the countries of western Europe have been so busy reforming their prisons that they have neglected to reform their prisoners. The latter is obviously the harder task.

So far as I am aware, the science of criminology has been taken up for investigation and study in only one American university, though desultory work in charities and corrections is done in several of them. The need for the scientific treatment of the subject is pressing, and it is to be hoped that these two interesting volumes will do much to attract the attention of students of social science, and to bring the matter to the notice of all thoughtful citizens.

A. G. WARNER.

Eisenbahnreform. Von EDUARD ENGEL. Jena, Herman Costenoble, 1888. — 8vo, 219 pp.

It is many years since practical railway reformers derided the projects of Brandon and Galt in England, and of Perrot in Germany. But the old idea has been taken up anew by Herr Engel, and is fast attracting attention in all quarters, owing to its practical realization in Hungary, and its projected adoption in other countries. Engel's book is all the more important because it is chiefly to the indefatigable author that these new experiments are due. The volume before us is in some sort the Bible of the new school of transportation enthusiasts.

The main ideas may be summarized as follows. The prevalent system of passenger fares is one based chiefly on distance. Concessions are made only on the very long distances, owing to competitive centres,